

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 – 2 are presented for reconsideration and further examination in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 – 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,362,892 to Lee et al. (hereinafter referred to as "the Lee et al. '892 patent").

By this Response and Amendment,

claim 1 has been amended to recite: "if the printer driver determines that a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, the printer driver automatically selects a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data;"

claim 2 has been amended to recite: "if the printer driver determines that said secret operation item is selected, the printer driver automatically selects a secret keeping operation for print data;" and as amended, the rejections to claims 1 and 2 have been traversed.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 can be found on page 5, line 35 through page 6, line 10 of the originally filed specification; and support for the amendment to claim 2 can be found on page 8, lines 13 – 20 of the originally filed specification. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter, within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §132, has been introduced to this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1 – 2 as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of the Lee et al. '892 patent.

Response

By this Response and Amendment, Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejections since all of the features of the claims, as amended, are not disclosed, taught, or suggested by the cited prior art.

To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Examiner must establish: (1) some suggestion or motivation to modify the references exists; (2) a reasonable expectation of success; and (3) the prior art references teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. *Amgen, Inc. v. Chugai Pharm. Co.*, 18 USPQ2d 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1991); *In re Fine*, 5 USPQ2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Wilson*, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Claim 1 recites “[a] printer driver, provided at a host computer while said host computer is connected to a stencil printing machine through communications, for setting items of various printing conditions for said stencil printing machine, wherein the various setting items for said printing conditions are displayed; if the printer driver determines that a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, the printer driver *automatically* selects a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data; and information on the items are transmitted, together with the print data, to the stencil printing machine.” *Present Application*, claim 1, *emphasis added*.

Claim 2 recites “[a] printer driver, provided at a host computer while said host computer is connected to a stencil printing machine through communications, for setting items of various printing conditions for said stencil printing machine, wherein the various setting items for said printing conditions are displayed; if a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, a selection screen of a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data secret is displayed; the items are made selectable; if the

printer driver determines that said secret operation item is selected, the printer driver *automatically* selects a secret keeping operation for print data; and information on the selected items are transmitted, together with the print data, to the stencil printing machine.” *Present Application*, claim 2, *emphasis added*.

The background section of the present application, which the Examiner cites against the present claims, discloses different methods for keeping a secret of a stencil sheet. Such methods include manually removing a stencil sheet from a stencil printing machine; or setting a “secret operation” on a printer driver such that a printing operation is not carried out unless the next original is set. However, the background section of the present application also notes that, if the printer driver does not identify a secret operation setting even though a secret print has been executed, a secret printing operation will not necessary be initiated and, thus, a used secret stencil sheet can be inadvertently left on the printing drum. This problem results from the fact that a printer driver does not automatically select a secret keeping operation based on the selection of a watermark item or the selection of a secret print item.

The secondary reference, the Lee et al. ‘892 patent, discloses a system that includes a printer driver for storing and retrieving a set of print setting data. The system provides summarized setting information and comprises a memory, a display, the printer driver, and a user interface.

In contrast to the presently claimed invention, neither the background section of the present application nor the Lee et al. ‘892 patent discloses, teaches or suggests that, “if the printer driver determines that a watermark print item is selected on the setting items, the printer driver *automatically* selects a secret operation item for allowing said stencil printing machine to execute a secret keeping operation for print data” as recited in amended independent claim 1 or that, “if

the printer driver determines that said secret operation item is selected, the printer driver *automatically* selects a secret keeping operation for print data,” as recited in amended independent claim 2. In the methods disclosed in the background section of the present application and in the printer driver disclosed in the Lee et al. ‘892 patent, there is no way to prevent inadvertent printing of secret information. Since the presently claimed invention is directed toward automatically bypassing all secret printing operations unless a user selects a “watermark print item” or a “secret operation item” as recited in amended claims 1 and 2, respectively, and since this “automatic” feature is missing from the cited prior art, the presently claimed invention is not rendered obvious by the cited prior art.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the outstanding rejections.

CONCLUSION

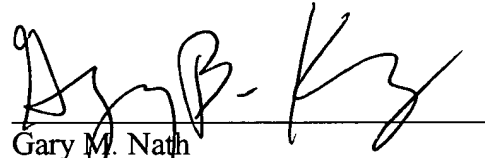
In light of the foregoing, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes the application is not in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney if it is believed that such contact will expedite the prosecution of the application.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0112.

Respectfully submitted,
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